

RAND

W17412

1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT : American Advisor POW Shot by  
Local Forces cadre in VIEN TRINH Hamlet, THUA THIEN Province

DATE OF REPORT: 07/12/67

NO. OF PAGES : 2

DATE OF INFO : June or July 1966

REF: [ ]

DATE AND PLACE : 28 November 1967 (L-N)  
OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

SOURCE: [ ]

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S U M M A R Y

Source learned from his Platoon Deputy Commander that an American advisor who had been captured some time in June or July 1966 during an attack on VIEN TRINH Hamlet, PHU DA Village, PHU VANG District, THUA THIEN Province, had been killed by a local force cadre when he "tried to escape". An Allied Force aircraft had circled the battle area and over loud speakers had offered a large sum of money for any information regarding the fate of the prisoner or to any one who would help him to escape. The incident precipitated a message from regiment headquarters to the battalion pertaining to the review and enforcement of regulations involving the handling of prisoners. Source could provide no additional information regarding the incident nor could he describe the American. The GVN soldiers who had also been captured were escorted to regimental headquarters.

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## ATTACHMENTS:

None

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Approved for Release

Date September 1993

JAN 8 1968

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1. In June or July 1966 Battalion 804 participated in an attack on VIEN TRINH Hamlet, PHU DA Village, PHU VANG District, THUA THIEN Province. At daybreak the VC/NVA Forces had overrun the hamlet. One American advisor and several GVN soldiers were taken prisoner. The battalion then received orders from headquarters to retreat because reinforcements consisting of five GVN battalions were approaching. The battalion did as ordered and returned to camp (location unknown). 1.3(a)(4)
2. Approximately one week afterwards, Source delivered a message sent from regimental headquarters to Deputy Battalion Commander Captain NHON and to Battalion Political Officer LE CHOI, in which the battalion was instructed to have all battalion cadres review and enforce the regulations involving the handling of prisoners. The Deputy Battalion Commander said that the American adviser had been captured unhurt, his hands were tied in front of him and his shoes had not been removed. The prisoner was sitting on the ground when the order to retreat was given and he refused to accompany his guards. The NVA platoon leader who was responsible for the prisoner, turned him over to local force cadres with instructions to take him to Province Force Headquarters (location unknown) where he could be interrogated in English. The battalion left the hamlet and returned to camp. A local force cadre shot the prisoner who "tried to escape" as soon as the battalion had left the hamlet.
3. The Regiment showed more interest in this particular prisoner and hence the local force cadre who had killed the prisoner would be severely criticized. After the battle, an Allied Forces aircraft had circled the battle area and over loudspeakers had offered a large sum (amount unknown to Source) of money for any information regarding the fate of the prisoner or to any one who would help him to escape. The regiment assumed from the large amount of the award, that the prisoner was either the son of a very important U.S. officer or a high ranking officer. He heard that the platoon leader responsible for the American's capture had died in battle one or two days later. If the prisoner had not refused to accompany his guards, he would have been escorted to regimental headquarters (location unknown) and to an unknown location after that.
4. The GVN soldiers who had also been captured at this battle were escorted to regimental headquarters where they would receive a "political training" course and then either join the VC/NVA ranks or be "released".

NIC COMMENT: Source could provide no additional information regarding the incident nor could he describe the American. Source learned the details of the incident involving the American when he, as a battalion cryptographer, delivered the message (paragraph 2) to his battalion commander.